

# ***NCFAS - R***

## **North Carolina Family Assessment Scale for Reunification**

### **for Intensive Family Preservation Services (IFPS) Programs Serving Reunification Cases**

### **Version: R 2.0**

IFPS System ID#:	Date Intake Assessment Completed     /     /
IFPS Worker:	Date Case Closure Assessment Completed     /     /
Other Agency ID#:	Family Name:

### **Introduction**

This instrument comprises seven domains relating to family functioning. Each of the domains includes subscales to use to assess how a family is functioning. The results of the assessment may be important to determining the risk of out-of-home placement or successful reunification for the assessed family. For each subscale, rate its influence as a strength or problem for the family along a 6-point continuum, using the following schema: +2 = Clear Strength, +1 = Mild Strength, 0 = Baseline/Adequate, -1 = Mild Problem, -2 = Moderate Problem, and -3 = Serious Problem. To rate each scale, circle the appropriate number. “I” represents the rating given at intake or at the beginning of the case, and “C” represents the rating at service or case closure. The “overall” ratings (the ones in the shaded areas) should indicate your overall, composite rating in each of the seven domains. The subscales represent areas of interest relating to the domain under which they appear (e.g., Housing Stability appears under domain A. Environment). The overall domain ratings should not be the arithmetic average of the subscales, but rather should be your informed, subjective rating of the family based on information gathered to make the subscale ratings. The reliability and validity studies have shown that it is essential to rate each of the subscales before making the overall domain rating. Use the definitions in the Definitions Manual to the NCFAS-R (Version 2.0 or higher) to assist you when making your ratings.

Complete the intake (I) ratings as soon as sufficient information is available to make thorough and accurate ratings (suggested within 2 to 3 weeks of beginning case activities), and make the closure (C) ratings within 1–2 weeks of completion of intensive reunification services.

### 1

The NCFAS-R is a modification of the NCFAS (North Carolina Family Assessment Scale) and is intended for use by family preservation services providers working with reunification cases. Modifications were made by R. S. Kirk, in collaboration with the National Family Preservation Network (NFPN). Funding provided to NFPN for the modification project came from the David and Lucile Packard Foundation. The original NCFAS was developed by R. S. Kirk and K. Ashcraft. The NCFAS is derived from previous versions based on the Family Assessment Form, developed at the Children’s Bureau of Southern California, Michigan’s Family Assessment of Needs Form, and four assessment instruments developed in North Carolina by Haven House (Raleigh), Home Remedies (Morganton), Methodist Home for Children (Raleigh), and the state Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities and Substance Abuse Services. Special acknowledgments are due to Sandy Sladen and Judith Nelson at the Children’s Bureau of Southern California and to researchers Jacquelyn McCroskey and William Meezan. Domain specifications for the original NCFAS were based on the work of Meezan and McCroskey. Domains and subscales for Version 2.0 are based upon reliability and validity testing completed in the Fall of 1997. The NCFAS-R, Version R2.0, is based upon reliability and validity testing conducted during 2000–2001. R&V testing is ongoing.

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## A. Environment

	<b>Clear S.</b>	<b>Mild S.</b>	<b>Baseline A.</b>	<b>Mild P.</b>	<b>Moderate P.</b>	<b>Serious P.</b>
1. Overall environment	(I) +2	+1	0	-1	-2	-3
	(C) +2	+1	0	-1	-2	-3
2. Housing stability						
	(I) +2	+1	0	-1	-2	-3
	(C) +2	+1	0	-1	-2	-3
3. Safety in the community						
	(I) +2	+1	0	-1	-2	-3
	(C) +2	+1	0	-1	-2	-3
4. Habitability of housing						
	(I) +2	+1	0	-1	-2	-3
	(C) +2	+1	0	-1	-2	-3
5. Income/employment						
	(I) +2	+1	0	-1	-2	-3
	(C) +2	+1	0	-1	-2	-3
6. Financial management						
	(I) +2	+1	0	-1	-2	-3
	(C) +2	+1	0	-1	-2	-3
7. Food and nutrition						
	(I) +2	+1	0	-1	-2	-3
	(C) +2	+1	0	-1	-2	-3
8. Personal hygiene						
	(I) +2	+1	0	-1	-2	-3
	(C) +2	+1	0	-1	-2	-3
9. Transportation						
	(I) +2	+1	0	-1	-2	-3
	(C) +2	+1	0	-1	-2	-3
10. Learning environment						
	(I) +2	+1	0	-1	-2	-3
	(C) +2	+1	0	-1	-2	-3

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### B. Parental Capabilities\*

Note: This section refers to biological parent(s), if present, or current caregiver(s)

	<b>Clear S.</b>	<b>Mild S.</b>	<b>Baseline A.</b>	<b>Mild P.</b>	<b>Moderate P.</b>	<b>Serious P.</b>
1. Overall parental (I) capabilities	+2	+1	0	-1	-2	-3
(C)	+2	+1	0	-1	-2	-3

	<b>Clear S.</b>	<b>Mild S.</b>	<b>Baseline A.</b>	<b>Mild P.</b>	<b>Moderate P.</b>	<b>Serious P.</b>
2. Supervision of child(ren)						
(I)	+2	+1	0	-1	-2	-3
(C)	+2	+1	0	-1	-2	-3
3. Disciplinary practices						
(I)	+2	+1	0	-1	-2	-3
(C)	+2	+1	0	-1	-2	-3
4. Provision of developmental/ enrichment opportunities						
(I)	+2	+1	0	-1	-2	-3
(C)	+2	+1	0	-1	-2	-3
5. Parent(s')/caregiver(s') mental health						
(I)	+2	+1	0	-1	-2	-3
(C)	+2	+1	0	-1	-2	-3
6. Parent(s')/caregiver(s') physical health						
(I)	+2	+1	0	-1	-2	-3
(C)	+2	+1	0	-1	-2	-3
7. Parent(s')/caregiver(s') use of drugs/alcohol						
(I)	+2	+1	0	-1	-2	-3
(C)	+2	+1	0	-1	-2	-3

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### C. Family Interactions

Note: This section refers to family members living in the same or different households

		<b>Clear S.</b>	<b>Mild S.</b>	<b>Baseline A.</b>	<b>Mild P.</b>	<b>Moderate P.</b>	<b>Serious P.</b>	
1. Overall family interactions	(I)	+2	+1	0	-1	-2	-3	
	(C)	+2	+1	0	-1	-2	-3	
		<b>Clear S.</b>	<b>Mild S.</b>	<b>Baseline A.</b>	<b>Mild P.</b>	<b>Moderate P.</b>	<b>Serious P.</b>	
2. Bonding with child(ren)	(I)	+2	+1	0	-1	-2	-3	
	(C)	+2	+1	0	-1	-2	-3	
3. Expectations of the child(ren)	(I)	+2	+1	0	-1	-2	-3	
	(C)	+2	+1	0	-1	-2	-3	
4. Mutual support within the family	(I)	+2	+1	0	-1	-2	-3	
	(C)	+2	+1	0	-1	-2	-3	
5. Relationship between parents/caregivers*	(I)	+2	+1	0	-1	-2	-3	NA
	(C)	+2	+1	0	-1	-2	-3	NA

## D. Family Safety

Note: This section refers to family members living in the same or different households.

		<b>Clear S.</b>	<b>Mild S.</b>	<b>Baseline A.</b>	<b>Mild P.</b>	<b>Moderate P.</b>	<b>Serious P.</b>	
1. Overall family safety	(I)	+2	+1	0	-1	-2	-3	
	(C)	+2	+1	0	-1	-2	-3	
2. Absence/presence of physical abuse of child(ren)*								
	(I)	+2	+1	0	-1	-2	-3	
	(C)	+2	+1	0	-1	-2	-3	
3. Absence/presence of sexual abuse of child(ren)								
	(I)	+2	+1	0	-1	-2	-3	
	(C)	+2	+1	0	-1	-2	-3	
4. Absence/presence of emotional abuse of child(ren)								
	(I)	+2	+1	0	-1	-2	-3	
	(C)	+2	+1	0	-1	-2	-3	
5. Absence/presence of neglect of child(ren)*								
	(I)	+2	+1	0	-1	-2	-3	
	(C)	+2	+1	0	-1	-2	-3	
6. Absence/presence of domestic violence between parents/caregivers								
	(I)	+2	+1	0	-1	-2	-3	NA
	(C)	+2	+1	0	-1	-2	-3	NA

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### E. Child Well-Being

Note: This section pertains to the **imminent risk child(ren)**.

		<b>Clear S.</b>	<b>Mild S.</b>	<b>Baseline A.</b>	<b>Mild P.</b>	<b>Moderate P.</b>	<b>Serious P.</b>	
1. Overall child well-being	(I)	+2	+1	0	-1	-2	-3	
	(C)	+2	+1	0	-1	-2	-3	
2. Child(ren's) mental health								
	(I)	+2	+1	0	-1	-2	-3	
	(C)	+2	+1	0	-1	-2	-3	
3. Child(ren's) behavior								
	(I)	+2	+1	0	-1	-2	-3	
	(C)	+2	+1	0	-1	-2	-3	
4. School performance								
	(I)	+2	+1	0	-1	-2	-3	NA
	(C)	+2	+1	0	-1	-2	-3	NA
5. Relationship with parent(s)/caregiver(s)								
	(I)	+2	+1	0	-1	-2	-3	
	(C)	+2	+1	0	-1	-2	-3	
6. Relationship with sibling(s)								
	(I)	+2	+1	0	-1	-2	-3	NA
	(C)	+2	+1	0	-1	-2	-3	NA
7. Relationship with peers								
	(I)	+2	+1	0	-1	-2	-3	NA
	(C)	+2	+1	0	-1	-2	-3	NA
8. Cooperation/motivation to maintain the family								
	(I)	+2	+1	0	-1	-2	-3	
	(C)	+2	+1	0	-1	-2	-3	

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## F. Caregiver/Child Ambivalence

	<b>Clear S.</b>	<b>Mild S.</b>	<b>Baseline A.</b>	<b>Mild P.</b>	<b>Moderate P.</b>	<b>Serious P.</b>
1. Overall Caregiver / (I)	+2	+1	0	-1	-2	-3
Child Ambivalence (C)	+2	+1	0	-1	-2	-3

  

	<b>Clear S.</b>	<b>Mild S.</b>	<b>Baseline A.</b>	<b>Mild P.</b>	<b>Moderate P.</b>	<b>Serious P.</b>
2. Parent/Caregiver Ambivalence Towards Child						
(I)	+2	+1	0	-1	-2	-3
(C)	+2	+1	0	-1	-2	-3

  

3. Child Ambivalence Towards Parent/Caregiver						
(I)	+2	+1	0	-1	-2	-3
(C)	+2	+1	0	-1	-2	-3

  

4. Ambivalence Exhibited By Substitute Care Provider						
(I)	+2	+1	0	-1	-2	-3
(C)	+2	+1	0	-1	-2	-3

  

5. Disrupted Attachment						
(I)	+2	+1	0	-1	-2	-3
(C)	+2	+1	0	-1	-2	-3

  

6. Pre-Reunification Home Visitations						
(I)	+2	+1	0	-1	-2	-3
(C)	+2	+1	0	-1	-2	-3

Note: Although “Intake” ratings are always important on this subscale, “Closure” ratings may not be appropriate in all cases, depending largely on the reunification model employed and the timing of the assessment.



## G. Readiness for Reunification

	<b>Clear S.</b>	<b>Mild S.</b>	<b>Baseline A.</b>	<b>Mild P.</b>	<b>Moderate P.</b>	<b>Serious P.</b>
1. Overall Readiness (I)	+2	+1	0	-1	-2	-3
for Reunification (C)	+2	+1	0	-1	-2	-3

	<b>Clear S.</b>	<b>Mild S.</b>	<b>Baseline A.</b>	<b>Mild P.</b>	<b>Moderate P.</b>	<b>Serious P.</b>
2. Resolution of Significant CPS Risk Factors						
(I)	+2	+1	0	-1	-2	-3
(C)	+2	+1	0	-1	-2	-3
3. Completion of Case Service Plans						
(I)	+2	+1	0	-1	-2	-3
(C)	+2	+1	0	-1	-2	-3
4. Resolution of Legal Issues						
(I)	+2	+1	0	-1	-2	-3
(C)	+2	+1	0	-1	-2	-3
5. Parent/Caregiver Understanding of Child Treatment Needs						
(I)	+2	+1	0	-1	-2	-3
(C)	+2	+1	0	-1	-2	-3
6. Established Back-Up Supports and/or Service Plans						
(I)	+2	+1	0	-1	-2	-3
(C)	+2	+1	0	-1	-2	-3

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